

**Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Project Ranking Criteria**

February 2003 Update

CATEGORY A

Definition:

Water systems with deficiencies that have resulted in documented waterborne disease outbreaks illnesses that are attributable to the water systems or water systems under a court order to correct SDWA violations and/or water outage problems.

Includes water systems that:

1. Have defects resulting in confirmed waterborne disease outbreaks; or
2. Are under court order because of a SDWA violation and have a court ordered schedule of compliance. The court ordered compliance shall not be dependent upon SRF moneys; or
3. Are under a court ordered service connection moratorium, have been directed to correct water outage problems and have a schedule of compliance. Court ordered compliance shall not be dependent upon SRF moneys.

Excludes water systems:

1. With suspected but unconfirmed disease outbreaks.
2. Under court order that does not include a directive or a compliance schedule to correct a SDWA violation or pertains to an issue not covered by SDWA.
3. Under court order to correct a water outage problem that does not contain a service connection moratorium or a compliance schedule.
4. Under enforcement action other than court order, i.e. citations, compliance orders, domestic water permits with enforcement provisions or directives by the enforcement agency.



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Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes all of the following unless otherwise noted:

1. A copy of a sanitary survey conducted by the enforcement agency defining the acute health hazard that resulted in the disease outbreak, SDWA violation or water outage.
2. If a waterborne disease outbreak has occurred in the water system:
 - a. A statement from the local health officer that a waterborne disease outbreak has occurred including the number of people ill, the suspected causative agent(s) and confirmation that the illnesses were due to water system deficiencies; and
 - b. If in effect, a copy of the consumer notification/ boil order notifying consumers of the health hazard and written confirmation that the notification has been issued, the dates issued and to whom.
3. If a court order has been issued to the water system, a copy of the court order and statement from the enforcement agency defining when the outages and/or SDWA violations occurred. The statement must also affirm that the deficiency still exists.

CATEGORY B

Definition:

Water systems that have active (not standby) sources contaminated with coliform bacteria (fecal, *E. coli*, or total coliforms) resulting in repeated violation of the coliforms bacteria MCL.

Includes domestic water systems that:

1. Distribute water from any source contaminated with coliform bacteria that has resulted in the water system violating the coliform MCL as a result of the contamination of the source.
2. As a result of the source contamination, has had repeated confirmed bacteriological contamination in the water delivered to consumers resulting in issuance of boil water and/or bacteriological failure notifications.

Excludes water systems that:

1. Distribute water from any surface water or groundwater that is contaminated with coliform bacteria and has been reliably treated to deactivate the organisms before distribution.
2. Have not had repeated confirmed coliform contamination in the water delivered to consumers.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes copies of coliform analyses and total coliforms MCL violations.

CATEGORY C

Definition:

Water systems which have a surface water supply that is not filtered or untreated well sources that are contaminated with fecal or *E. coli* .

Includes:

1. Provision of filtration treatment to water systems with groundwater sources that are under the direct influence of surface water; or
2. Provision of filtration treatment to water systems with unfiltered surface water supply that does not comply with the federal or state filtration avoidance criteria: or
3. Source water replacement or providing treatment for water systems with well sources that are bacteriological contamination fecal or *E. coli* (but are not in violation of the coliform MCL).

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes a copy of the annual inspection report, sanitary survey or deficiency report describing the deficiency. If a fecal or *E. coli* contaminated well, mandatory documentation includes copy of bacteriological results.

CATEGORY D

Definition:

Water systems that have (1) surface water sources with filtration treatment deficiencies that violate federal or state regulations concerning surface water treatment requirements (2) wells that are contaminated with fecal coliform or E. coli and are inadequately treated.

Water treatment deficiencies include:

1. Filtration process without an approved filtration technology.
2. Disinfection facilities that do not comply with the federal or state surface water treatment requirements.
3. Water systems with surface water treatment facilities not meeting performance standards.
4. Wells with disinfection only or unreliable bacteriological treatment.

Water treatment deficiencies exclude:

1. Properly designed diatomaceous earth or slow sand filtration.
2. Quality failures due to chemical dosage problems.
3. Quality failures due to operational deficiencies unrelated to infrastructure problems.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes all of the following unless otherwise noted:

1. If there are turbidity standard failures; turbidity analyses reports confirming turbidity standard failures.
2. A copy of the annual inspection report, sanitary survey or deficiency report evaluating the compliance of the system with applicable requirements.

CATEGORY E

Definition:

Water systems with water outages or significant water quantity problems caused by source water capacity or water delivery capability that is insufficient to supply current demand.

Includes water systems:

1. That have had water quantity related connection moratoriums/limitations imposed by enforcement documentation, i.e. citation, compliance order, or permit provision; and
2. Where the water outages have been documented, frequent, and prolonged due to lack of sufficient source or water delivery capacity.
3. Where non-permitted sources have been used to maintain water pressure in the system.
4. Where water outages or shortages have resulted in enforcement action requiring that new sources be developed or improvement in the water delivery system be made.
5. Where an independent engineering evaluation demonstrates that the water system's existing sources cannot supply the current demand without creating significant water quantity problems.

Excludes water systems:

1. That have been directed by letter not to add connections; or
2. Where building moratoriums/limitations have been initiated for reasons other than insufficient source capacity problems.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes all of the following unless otherwise noted:

1. Copy of the enforcement document imposing connection moratorium/limitation or requiring new water source development or system improvement.
2. If water outages have occurred, records indicating the dates, times, areas affected and actions taken when water outages occurred.
3. Records indicating the dates and times during which non-permitted water sources were used to meet demand, if applicable.
4. Records reflecting the enactment and imposition of emergency restrictions on water use including elimination of outdoor water usage, if applicable.

CATEGORY F

Definition:

Water systems that distribute water containing nitrates/nitrites in excess of the MCL or systems that are in violation of the Total Coliform Rule for reasons other than source contamination.

Excludes water systems that:

1. Distribute water from high nitrate/nitrite sources that are reliably blended or treated to meet the nitrate/nitrite standard.
2. Systems that have violated the TCR in the past but are not currently in violation.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes nitrate/nitrite analyses reports confirming the concentration exceeds the MCL.

CATEGORY G

Definition:

Water systems that distribute water containing chemical or radiological contamination exceeding a State or Federal primary MCL.

Includes water systems that:

1. Distribute water that is in excess of a federally adopted MCL even though the State has not yet adopted the MCL.

Excludes water systems that:

1. Distribute water from sources exceeding a chemical or radiological MCL that is reliably blended or Treated to meet the MCL.
2. Distribute water from sources that only exceed a secondary MCL.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes copy of analyses confirming the concentration exceeds a primary MCL.

CATEGORY H

Definition:

Water systems with uncovered distribution reservoirs or reservoirs that are in active use or water systems with low-head transmission mains.

Includes:

1. Treated water reservoirs that do not have a rigid structural roof (e.g. floating covers).
2. Domestic water transmission mains (see Water Works Standards for definition) that have pressures less than 5 psi.

Excludes:

1. Treated water reservoirs that receive subsequent filtration treatment and comply with the Surface Water Treatment Regulations.
2. Raw water transmission mains that convey water that is or needs to be treated.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes a copy of the annual inspection report or sanitary survey with photographs or deficiency report describing the deficiency.

CATEGORY I

Definition:

Water systems that do not meet federal or state treatment or monitoring requirements related to disinfectants or disinfection by-products; or water systems which comply with surface water treatment requirements, but are not in conformance with the California Cryptosporidium Action Plan.

Includes:

Water Systems that conform with federal or state surface water treatment requirements, but not the Cryptosporidium Action Plan.

Water systems that are unable to comply with the treatment or monitoring requirements related to disinfectants and disinfection by products.

Excludes:

Water systems that do not meet surface water treatment requirements; these should be in category D

Water systems that do not meet a specific primary drinking water standard MCL. They should be in Category C, or G.

Water systems that do not meet disinfection requirements, or disinfection by-product requirements, including monitoring requirements, due to operational deficiencies unrelated to infrastructure.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes a copy of the annual inspection report, sanitary survey or deficiency report describing the deficiency.

CATEGORY J

Definition:

Water systems that are in violation of those portions of the Water Works Standards that could result in the entry of wastewater into the water supply or distribution system.

Includes water systems with any of the following:

1. Distribution lines which may be subject to back-siphonage from wastewater or recycled water facilities.
2. Wells, mains, or storage facilities located in, or in close proximity to, sewage, sewage disposal areas, dairies, animal waste storage areas, feed lots, corrals or other such animal enclosures.
3. Separation of water mains and sewer mains that do not comply with the proposed Water Works Standards.
4. Improperly constructed or maintained wells, storage, treatment or distribution facilities which are situated in close proximity to sewage.

Excludes:

1. Water main and sewer main cross-overs which have been satisfactorily designed and which provide an adequate degree of protection for the water main.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes a copy of the annual inspection report, sanitary survey or deficiency report describing the deficiency.

CATEGORY K

Definition:

Water systems that operate disinfection facilities that lack needed reliability features, chlorine residual analyzers and alarms or have other disinfection deficiencies that violate the Water Works Standards.

Includes disinfection equipment that:

1. Does not have automatic switchover devices on manifolded chlorine cylinders.
2. Does not have a chlorine residual analyzer, chart recording device, and appropriate alarms.
3. Does not have reliable backup equipment (spare chemical feed pumps, etc.).
4. Does not have the necessary leak detection, safety and handling equipment.

Excludes:

1. Disinfection equipment that meets the reliability criteria.
2. Changes in disinfectant when no defect exists in the disinfection facilities.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes a copy of the annual inspection report or deficiency report requiring the installation of reliability features, monitoring and control features, or safety alarms.

CATEGORY L

Definition:

Water systems that: (1) distribute water in excess of the iron or manganese secondary standard and for which a compliance order has been issued; (2) distribute water in excess of a Department published chemical action level; or (3) need treatment for a standby groundwater source that is contaminated in excess of a primary MCL.

Excludes water systems that:

1. Distribute water from sources exceeding an AL that is reliably blended or treated to meet the AL.
2. Distribute water exceeding the iron or manganese standard for which no compliance order has been issued.
3. Seek treatment for any inactive well that has not been designated as a “standby” source.

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes a copy of water quality analyses confirming the concentration exceeds the proposed MCL or AL.

CATEGORY M

Definition:

Water systems that do not meet the Water Works Standards other than those components already covered by the above listed categories and water systems that do not meet the TMF criteria but do not have a project in any of the above categories.

Includes water systems that:

1. Have TMF deficiencies that will be purchased or taken over by a large water system but have no other problems.
2. Are, or would be, in violation of proposed changes in the Water Works Standards for which a public hearing or a public comment period has been held.

CATEGORY N

Definition:

Water systems that distribute water that exceeds secondary standards other than iron (Fe) and/or manganese (Mn).

Documentation:

Mandatory documentation includes data confirming source water supply does not comply with the secondary standards.

CATEGORY O

Definition:

All water system deficiencies that are eligible and are not covered in any of the above categories.

Includes:

1. Improvement or replacement of source, storage, treatment, or distribution system facilities.
2. Provision of backup or reliability features, well rehabilitation, additional source acquisition, etc.